

Clifford Berlow

Partner

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Areas of Focus

Appellate and Supreme
Court

Sports and Gaming



Overview

Clifford Berlow specializes in helping clients navigate difficult questions of commercial, constitutional, and regulatory law. Cliff has argued more than 30 appeals in courts throughout the United States, including in the Illinois Supreme Court, in all five districts of the Illinois Appellate Court, and in multiple federal courts of appeals, and has successfully represented clients in the US Supreme Court. In addition to that traditional appellate work, Cliff also has represented clients before administrative agencies and has a strong track record of developing winning litigation strategies for clients in state and federal trial courts, including in class actions.

The clients Cliff has represented span the energy, financial services, gaming, media, pharmaceutical, technology, telecommunications, and transportation sectors. Clients in this diverse array of industries turn to Cliff not just in the context of their highest stakes litigation, but for his strategic advice and guidance when changes in the law may impact their businesses. Cliff also has testified before the Illinois legislature regarding the constitutionality of proposed legislation.

In 2020, Cliff was recognized by the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* as one of the top 40 under 40 lawyers in Illinois, where he was described as “extraordinary attorney” who possesses “that extremely rare combination” of being an “exemplary writer, powerfully persuasive oral advocate and sophisticated legal strategist”. Prior to joining the firm, Cliff was an Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Appeals Division of the Illinois Attorney General’s Office, where two of the briefs he authored received Supreme Court Best Brief awards from the National Association of Attorneys General. He also previously worked as an associate in the appellate practice at a large Washington, DC law firm and as a law clerk to Judge Mary Beck Briscoe of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Cliff earned his law degree from the Northwestern University School of Law, where he was a member of the winning team in the law school's moot court competition and served as the managing editor of its law review. Before law school, Cliff was a 2002 Teach for America corps member working as a junior high school teacher in Chicago, Illinois.



Cliff has a unique ability to analyze highly technical and complex cases and persuasively convey that analysis to appellate courts in persuasive briefs and oral arguments. As an appellate advocate, Cliff is one of the most gifted writers and strategists I have ever known.”

Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, 40 under Forty

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- Appellate and Supreme Court
- Sports and Gaming

Credentials

Admissions

- Illinois, 2007
- District of Columbia, 2009

Education

- Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, JD, *cum laude*, Order of the Coif, Winning Team Member, Julius H. Miner Moot Court Competition, 2007
- Northwestern University, BA, departmental honors, History, 2002

Court Admissions

- US Supreme Court, 2017
- US Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, 2018
- US Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, 2020
- US Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, 2018
- US Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, 2017
- US Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, 2020
- US Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit, 2008

- US Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, 2017
- US District Court, Northern District of Illinois, 2020

Clerkships

- Hon. Mary Beck Briscoe, US Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit, 2007-2008

Service / Recognition

Awards

- *The Best Lawyers in America*, Commercial Litigation, 2024, 2026
- Capitol Pro Bono Honor Roll, 2025
- Supreme Court Best Brief Award, National Association of Attorneys General, Respondent's Brief, *Harris v. Quinn*, 134 S. Ct. 2618, 2014
- Supreme Court Best Brief Award, National Association of Attorneys General, Brief of Amici Curiae Illinois and 45 Other States, *Mississippi ex rel. Hood v. AU Optronics Corp.*, 134 S. Ct. 736, 2014